

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19893

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: WHO, SWEL, UR, US TGEN  
PREPARATIONS FOR WHO/UNICEF ALMA ATA CONFERENCE ON  
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

REF: (A) STATE 183343, (B) STATE 204972

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR THE ALMA ATA  
CONFERENCE 8/17 WITH DR. A. K. KISELEV, DIRECTOR  
OF PROTOCOL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THE  
MINISTRY EXPECTS ABOUT 1200 PARTICIPANTS FROM OVER  
150 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONAL LIBERATION  
MOVEMENTS INVOLVED IN WHO/UNICEF ACTIVITIES. USSR  
HEALTH MINISTER PETROVSKIY WILL HEAD THE USSR  
DELEGATION, AND ABOUT 50 MINISTERS OF HEALTH OR  
THEIR EQUIVALENTS FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
WILL REPORTEDLY BE ATTENDING. KISILEV SAID PRINCESS  
AFSHAR, SISTER OF THE SHAH OF IRAN, AND MRS. IMELDA  
MARCOS ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO COME.

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2. "ALMA ATA DECLARATION": ACCORDING TO  
KISILEV, THE SOVIETS EXPECT THAT THE FINAL CONFERENCE  
DOCUMENT WILL REAFFIRM PARTICIPANTS COMMITMENT TO  
IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.  
HE REFERRED TO THIS DOCUMENT AS THE "ALMA ATA  
DECLARATION" AND SAID THE WHO SECRETARIAT IS NOW

WORKING ON IT (CF REF A).

3. CONFERENCE LOGISTICS: KISILEV STATED THAT WHO WILL PAY FOR TRAVEL OF ONLY THREE MEMBERS OF EACH COUNTRY'S DELEGATION, AND ASKED FOR NAMES OF US MEMBERS WHO ARE TO TRAVEL AT WHO EXPENSE. THE SOVIETS HAVE CHARTERED SEVERAL PLANES FOR WHO SPONSORED DELEGATES TO FLY FROM MOSCOW TO ALMA ATA BUT OTHER DELEGATES WILL HAVE TO BOOK FLIGHTS FROM MOSCOW TO ALMA ATA THROUGH INTOURIST. SOVIETS WOULD LIKE ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO FLY ON TO ALMA ATA FROM MOSCOW SAME DAY THEY ARRIVE. THEY WILL BE MET AND ESCORTED TO CONFERENCE SITE. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS ARE BEING GIVEN PRIORITY ON FLIGHTS FROM MOSCOW TO ALMA ATA, BUT THEY SHOULD BOOK THEIR TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO. (WE SUGGEST ALL US DEL MEMBERS TRAVEL TO ALMA ATA TOGETHER.) KISILEV SAID THESE AND OTHER PROGRAM DETAILS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO WHO MEMBER DELEGATIONS. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSLATED INTO SIX OFFICIAL WHO LANGUAGES.

4. FIELD TRIPS: THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ABOUT 700 OF THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO VISIT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN THE KIRGHIZ, UZBEK, AND KAZAKH REPUBLICS SEPTEMBER 9-10. THEY WILL BE SHOWN  
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CLINICS AND RURAL DISPENSARIES BEFORE RETURNING TO ALMA ATA FOR FINAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS.

5. PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE: THE SOVIETS ARE SETTING UP A PRESS CENTER AT ALMA ATA, AND UPI AND AP HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEY WOULD SEND CORRESPONDENTS TO COVER THE CONFERENCE. THE PLENARY SESSIONS WILL BE FILMED AND A DOCUMENTARY OF THE CONFERENCE MADE AVAILABLE.

6. COMMENT: THE USSR IS INVESTING CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES INTO THIS CONFERENCE, AND WILL NO DOUBT USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TOUT THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. FIELD TRIPS TO THE MOSLEM REPUBLICS, ATTENDED BY MUCH PUBLICITY, ARE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO IMPRESS DELEGATES FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS. IN CONVERSATION WITH ACTING SCICOUNS AUGUST 15, DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH VENEDICTOV VOICED SOVIET BELIEF THAT USSR HAS THE MOST EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN THE WORLD, AND WE EXPECT THAT THIS THEME WILL BE STRESSED BY SOVIETS AT THE CONFERENCE. TOON

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